

What is Claimed is:

1. A fluid distribution system comprising:

a first valve including an inlet, an outlet and a sealing member disposed between the inlet and outlet to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the inlet and the outlet such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the inlet and the outlet of the first valve, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when the outlet pressure is greater than the inlet pressure in comparison to when the inlet pressure is greater than the outlet pressure of the first valve; and

a second valve disposed downstream of the first valve, the second valve including an inlet, an outlet and a sealing member disposed between the inlet and the outlet to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the inlet and the outlet such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the inlet and outlet of the second valve, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when the inlet pressure is greater than the outlet pressure in comparison to when the outlet pressure is greater than the inlet pressure of the second valve.

2. A fluid distribution system comprising:

a first valve and a second valve, each of the first and second valves including a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second channels, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel;

wherein the first and second valves are implemented in the system in opposing orientations with respect to each other such that, when the second channel of the first valve serves as an outlet of the first valve, the second channel of the second valve serves as an inlet of the second valve.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of each of the first and second valves is formed in a block and is in fluid communication with at least one channel disposed in the block and extending between the first and second valves.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein portions of the first and second valves and the block are formed of silicon.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the cross-sectional dimensions of the at least one channel disposed in the block are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

5 6. The system of claim 3, further comprising a sensor integrated into the block and in fluid communication with the first and second valves and the channels disposed within the block, wherein the sensor measures a physical property of fluid flowing through the first and second valves.

10 7. The system of claim 3, further comprising a second block including channels disposed within the second block that are in fluid communication with the first and second valves.

8. A fluid distribution system comprising:

a fluid supply source;

15 a block including at least one fluid distribution channel disposed within the block, an inlet port in fluid communication with the fluid supply source to receive and deliver a fluid in a first direction from the inlet port to an outlet port of the block via the at least one fluid distribution channel; and

20 a valve at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the at least one fluid distribution channel, the valve including a sealing member that selectively provides an asymmetric fluid seal such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied across the valve in the first direction and in a second direction that opposes the first direction, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluid flows in the first direction in comparison to when fluid flows in the second direction.

9. A fluid distribution block comprising:

25 a pressurization supply channel disposed within the block and extending between a pressurization inlet port to receive a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source and a pressurization outlet port to facilitate delivery of the pressurization fluid to a

process fluid supply source for pressurizing a process fluid disposed within the process fluid supply source;

a process delivery channel disposed within the block and extending between a process inlet port to receive fluid from the process fluid supply source and a process outlet port to deliver process fluid from the block to a delivery site;

a purge channel disposed within the block and extending between a purge inlet port to receive a purge fluid from a purge fluid supply source and a purge outlet port to deliver fluid to a purge fluid collection site; and

a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the block;

wherein the pressurization supply channel, the process delivery channel and the purge channel are in fluid communication with each other and at least one valve is in fluid communication with each channel to facilitate selective isolation of each channel with respect to the other channels within the block.

10. The fluid distribution block of claim 9, wherein the cross-sectional dimensions of channels within the block are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

11. The fluid distribution block of claim 9, wherein the at least one valve in fluid communication with the process delivery channel includes a shut-off valve disposed proximate the process outlet port.

12. The fluid distribution block of claim 11, further comprising:

a first pressure sensor at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the process delivery channel at a location upstream of the shut-off valve; and

a second pressure sensor at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the process delivery channel at a location downstream of the shut-off valve.

13. The fluid distribution block of claim 11, wherein the shut-off valve includes a sealing member that selectively provides an asymmetric fluid seal such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied across the valve in a first direction from the process inlet port to the process outlet port and in a second direction that opposes the first

direction, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluid flows in the first direction in comparison to when fluid flows in the second direction.

14. The fluid distribution block of claim 13, wherein the at least one valve in fluid communication with the process delivery channel further includes a second shut-off valve disposed upstream and proximate with the first shut-off valve.

15. The fluid distribution block of claim 14, wherein the second shut-off valve includes a sealing member that selectively provides an asymmetric fluid seal such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied across the valve in the first direction and in the opposing second direction, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluid flows in the first direction in comparison to when fluid flows in the second direction.

16. The fluid distribution block of claim 14, wherein the second shut-off valve includes a sealing member that selectively provides an asymmetric fluid seal such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied across the valve in the first direction and in the opposing second direction, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluid flows in the second direction in comparison to when fluid flows in the first direction.

17. The fluid distribution block of claim 9, wherein portions of the block and the valves are formed of silicon.

18. A fluid distribution system comprising:  
a first block including a pressurization channel disposed within the first block, a pressure sensor at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel, and a plurality of valves at least partially formed in the first block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel to facilitate pressurizing of a pressurization fluid entering the pressurization channel from a pressurization supply source to a selected pressure prior to delivery of the pressurization fluid to a first process fluid supply source; and

a second block including a network of delivery channels disposed within the second block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the network of delivery channels to facilitate a supply of a process fluid to a delivery site from at least one of the first process fluid supply source and  
5 a second fluid supply source.

19. The fluid distribution system of claim 18, wherein the cross-sectional dimensions of the channels in each of the first and second blocks are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

20. The fluid distribution system of claim 18, wherein the first and second  
10 blocks and the valves of each of the first and second blocks are at least partially formed of silicon.

21. The fluid distribution system of claim 18, wherein the second block includes independently controllable first, second and third shut-off valves to facilitate selective delivery of process fluid from one of the first process fluid supply source to the  
15 delivery site, the second process fluid supply source to the delivery site, the second process fluid supply source to the first process fluid supply source, and combinations thereof.

22. The fluid distribution system of claim 18, wherein the first, second and third shut-off valves are further independently controllable to facilitate delivery of process  
20 fluid from the second process fluid supply source to the first process fluid supply source while preventing fluid delivery from the second block to the delivery site.

23. The fluid distribution system of claim 22, wherein each of the first, second and third shut-off valves includes a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels to  
25 selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second channels, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first

channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel.

24. A fluid distribution system comprising:

a first process fluid supply source;

5 a first block in fluid communication with the first process fluid supply source, the first block including a pressurization channel disposed within the block, a pressure sensor at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel, and a plurality of valves at least partially formed in the first block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel to facilitate pressurizing of a  
10 pressurization fluid entering the pressurization channel from a pressurization supply source to a selected pressure prior to delivery of the pressurization fluid to the first process fluid supply source; and

a second block in fluid communication with the first process supply source, the second block including a network of delivery channels disposed within the second block  
15 and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the network of delivery channels to facilitate a supply of a process fluid to a delivery site from at least one of the first process fluid supply source and a second fluid supply source.

25. An integrated flow meter and internal purge system comprising:

20 a first shut-off valve in fluid communication with a main flow path of the system to selectively control input of a fluid into the system from a fluid supply source;

a second shut-off valve in fluid communication with the main flow path to selectively control output of the fluid from the system to a delivery site;

a flow meter comprising:

25 a sensor in fluid communication with the main flow path and disposed between the first and second shut-off valves, the sensor measuring a physical property of the fluid flowing through the main flow path; and

a control valve in fluid communication with the main flow path and disposed between the first and second shut-off valves to selectively control the flow rate of  
30 the fluid flowing through the main flow path based upon measurements of the sensor; and

a purge delivery line comprising:

a purge inlet flow path in fluid communication with the main flow path and a purge inlet port to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from a purge fluid supply source to the purge inlet flow path, the purge fluid inlet flow path being disposed between the first shut-off valve and the flow meter and further including a third shut-off valve to selectively control the flow of purge fluid from the purge fluid supply source into the purge inlet flow path; and

a purge outlet flow path in fluid communication with the main flow path and a purge outlet port to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from the purge outlet flow path to a purge fluid collection site, the purge outlet flow path being disposed between the flow meter and the second shut-off valve and further including a fourth shut-off valve to selectively control the flow of purge fluid from the purge outlet flow path to the purge fluid collection site.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein each of the main flow path, the shut-off valves, flow meter and purge fluid delivery line are at least partially formed within a block.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the main flow path, the purge inlet flow path and the purge outlet flow path comprise channels disposed within the block, and the cross-sectional dimensions of the channels are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the block is at least partially formed of silicon.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth shut-off valves includes a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second channels, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel.

30. A fluid distribution system comprising:

a process fluid supply source including a process fluid;

a first process block in fluid communication with the fluid supply source, the first process block comprising:

5 a pressurization supply channel disposed within the first process block and extending between a pressurization inlet port to receive a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source and a pressurization outlet port to facilitate delivery of the pressurization fluid to the process fluid supply source for pressurizing the process fluid disposed within the process fluid supply source;

10 a process delivery channel disposed within the first process block and extending between a process inlet port to receive fluid from the process fluid supply source and a process outlet port to deliver process fluid from the first process block to a first delivery line;

a purge channel disposed within the first process block and extending  
15 between a purge inlet port to receive a purge fluid from a purge fluid supply source and a purge outlet port to deliver fluid to a purge fluid collection site; and

a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the first process block;

wherein the pressurization supply channel, the process delivery channel and the purge channel are in fluid communication with each other and at least one valve is in fluid  
20 communication with each channel to facilitate selective isolation of each channel with respect to the other channels within the first process block.

31. The system of claim 30, further comprising:

a secondary process fluid supply source;

a second block in fluid communication with the pressurization fluid supply source  
25 and the secondary process fluid supply source, the second block comprising:

a pressurization channel disposed within the second block, a pressure sensor at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel, and a plurality of valves at least partially formed in the second block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel to facilitate pressurizing  
30 of the pressurization fluid entering the pressurization channel from the pressurization



supply source to a selected pressure prior to delivery of the pressurization fluid to the secondary process fluid supply source; and

5 a third block including a network of delivery channels disposed within the third block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the third block and in fluid communication with the network of delivery channels, the network of delivery channels being in fluid communication with each of the process fluid supply source and the secondary process fluid supply source to facilitate a supply of the process fluid from at least one of the fluid supply source and the secondary fluid supply source to a second delivery line.

10 32. The system of claim 31, further comprising:

a fourth block in fluid communication with the second delivery line, the fourth block comprising:

a main flow channel disposed within the fourth block;

15 a first shut-off valve at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel to selectively control input of a fluid into the system from the second delivery line;

a second shut-off valve at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel to selectively control output of the fluid from the system to a delivery site;

20 a flow meter comprising:

a sensor at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel and disposed between the first and second shut-off valves, the sensor measuring a physical property of the fluid flowing through the main flow path; and

25 a control valve at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel and disposed between the first and second shut-off valves to selectively control the flow rate of the fluid flowing through the main flow channel based upon measurements of the sensor; and

30 a purge inlet flow channel disposed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel and a purge inlet port to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from a second purge fluid supply source to the purge inlet flow path, the purge fluid inlet flow channel being disposed between the first shut-off valve and the flow meter

and further including a third shut-off valve to selectively control the flow of purge fluid from the second purge fluid supply source into the purge inlet flow channel; and

5 a purge outlet flow channel disposed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow path and a purge outlet port to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from the purge outlet flow channel to a second purge fluid collection site, the purge outlet flow channel being disposed between the flow meter and the second shut-off valve and further including a fourth shut-off valve to selectively control the flow of purge fluid from the purge outlet flow channel to the second purge fluid collection site.

10 33. A method of reducing leakage of fluid between a first valve and a second valve in fluid communication with each other in a fluid flow distribution system, each valve including a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels that provides an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second channels, a fluid  
15 leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel, the method comprising:

20 (a) orienting the first and second valves in the system to achieve a combined symmetric seal between the first and second valves such that, when the second channel of the first valve serves as an outlet of the first valve, the second channel of the second valve serves as an inlet of the second valve.

25 34. The method of claim 33, wherein at least a portion of each of the first and second valves is formed in a block and is in fluid communication with at least one channel disposed in the block and extending between the first and second valves.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein portions of the first and second valves and the block are formed of silicon.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the cross-sectional dimensions of the at least one channel disposed in the block are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

37. A method of delivering a process fluid at a controlled flow rate from at least one of a first process fluid supply source and a second process fluid supply source to a delivery site utilizing a distribution system including a first block and a second block, the first block including a pressurization channel disposed within the block, and a pressure sensor at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel, and the second block including a network of delivery channels disposed within the second block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the network of delivery channels, the method comprising:

- (a) facilitating fluid communication between the first block, a pressurization supply source, and the first process fluid supply source;
- (b) pressurizing a pressurization fluid entering the pressurization channel of the first block from the pressurization supply source to a selected pressure;
- (c) delivering the pressurization fluid at the selected pressure to the first process fluid supply source;
- (d) facilitating fluid communication between the second block and each of the first and second fluid supply sources and the fluid delivery site; and
- (e) manipulating at least one of the valves of the second block between open and closed positions to supply the process fluid from at least one of the first process fluid supply source and the second fluid supply source to the delivery site.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the channels in each of the first and second blocks are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the first and second blocks and the valves of each of the first and second blocks are at least partially formed of silicon.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the second block includes first, second and third shut-off valves that are independently manipulated to facilitate selective delivery of process fluid from one of the first process fluid supply source to the delivery site, the second process fluid supply source to the delivery site, the second process fluid supply source to the first process fluid supply source, and combinations thereof.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the first, second and third shut-off valves are further independently manipulated to facilitate delivery of process fluid from the second process fluid supply source to the first process fluid supply source while preventing fluid delivery from the second block to the delivery site.

5 42. The method of claim 40, wherein each of the first, second and third shut-off valves includes a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second  
10 channels, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel.

43. A method of operating a combined flow meter and internal purge system,  
15 the system including a main flow path, a first shut-off valve in fluid communication with the main flow path, a second shut-off valve in fluid communication with the main flow path, a flow meter disposed between the first and second shut-off valves, the flow meter including a sensor and a control valve in fluid communication with the main flow path, and a purge delivery line including a purge inlet flow path in fluid communication with the  
20 main flow path and a purge inlet port and a purge outlet flow path in fluid communication with the main flow path and a purge outlet port, the purge fluid inlet flow path including a third shut-off valve and being disposed between the first shut-off valve and the flow meter, and the purge outlet flow path including a fourth shut-off valve and being disposed between the flow meter and the second shut-off valve, the method comprising:

25 (a) facilitating fluid communication between the main flow path and a process fluid supply source;

(b) opening the first and second shut-off valves, while the third and fourth shut-off valves are closed, to facilitate the flow of a process fluid through the main flow path from the process fluid supply source;

(c) measuring a physical property of the process fluid flowing through the main flow path with the sensor and manipulating the control valve to control the flow rate of the process fluid based upon the measured physical property;

5 (d) selectively closing the first and second shut-off valves to prevent the flow of the process fluid through the main flow path;

(e) facilitating fluid communication between the purge inlet port and a purge fluid supply source and the purge outlet port and a purge fluid collection source; and

10 (f) opening the third and fourth shut-off valves, while the first and second shut-off valves are closed, to facilitate a flow of purge fluid from the purge fluid collection source, through the purge fluid inlet flow path, the main flow path and the purge fluid outlet path to the purge fluid collection site.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein each of the main flow path, the shut-off valves, the flow meter and the purge fluid delivery line are at least partially formed within a block.

15 45. The method of claim 44, wherein the main flow path, the purge inlet flow path and purge outlet flow path comprise channels disposed within the block, and the cross-sectional dimensions of the channels are no greater than about 200 micrometers.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein the block is at least partially formed of silicon.

20 47. The method of claim 44, wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth shut-off valves includes a first channel in fluid communication with a second channel and a sealing member disposed between the first and second channels to selectively provide an asymmetric fluidic seal between the first and second channels such that, when a pressure differential is equally applied in opposing directions between the first and second  
25 channels, a fluid leakage rate across the sealing member is higher when fluidic pressure within the second channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the first channel in comparison to when fluidic pressure in the first channel is greater than fluidic pressure in the second channel.

48. A method of delivering a process fluid from a storage location to a delivery site, the method comprising:

- 5 (a) providing a first process block in fluid communication with a fluid supply source, the first process block including a pressurization supply channel disposed within the first process block and extending between a pressurization inlet port and a pressurization outlet port, a process delivery channel disposed within the first process block and extending between a process inlet port and a process outlet port, a purge channel disposed within the first process block and extending between a purge inlet port and a purge outlet port, and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the first process block, wherein the pressurization supply channel, the process delivery channel and the purge channel are all in fluid communication with each other and at least one valve is in fluid communication and associated with each channel;
- 10 (b) facilitating fluid communication between the pressurization inlet port and a pressurization fluid supply source and between the pressurization outlet port and the process fluid supply source;
- 15 (c) pressurizing process fluid disposed within the process fluid supply source by flowing pressurization fluid from the pressurization fluid supply source, through the pressurization supply channel and into the process fluid supply source;
- 20 (d) facilitating fluid communication between the process inlet port and the process fluid supply source and between the process outlet port and a first delivery line;
- (e) flowing process fluid from the process fluid supply source through the process delivery channel and into the first delivery line;
- (f) facilitating fluid communication between the purge inlet port and a purge fluid supply source and between the purge outlet port and a purge fluid collection site; and
- 25 (g) manipulating at least one valve associated with each channel so as to selectively isolate at least one of the pressurization supply channel, the process delivery channel and the purge channel from the other channels.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein the manipulation step (f) includes closing at least one valve disposed proximate the process outlet port and at least one other valve proximate the pressurization inlet port, and opening at least one valve disposed proximate the purge inlet port to facilitate the flow of a purge fluid from the purge fluid supply

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source, through the purge channel and at least portions of the process delivery channel to the purge collection site.

50. The method of claim 48, further comprising:

- (h) providing a secondary process fluid supply source;
- 5 (i) providing a second block in fluid communication with the pressurization fluid supply source and the secondary process fluid supply source, the second block including a pressurization channel disposed within the second block, a pressure sensor at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel, and a plurality of valves at least partially formed in the second  
10 block and in fluid communication with the pressurization channel;
- (j) pressurizing the pressurization fluid entering the pressurization channel from the pressurization supply source to a selected pressure;
- (k) delivering the pressurization fluid to the secondary process fluid supply source at the selected pressure;
- 15 (l) providing a third block including a network of delivery channels disposed within the third block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the third block and in fluid communication with the network of delivery channels, the network of delivery channels being in fluid communication with each of the process fluid supply source and the secondary process fluid supply source;
- 20 (m) supplying the process fluid, via the third block, from at least one of the fluid supply source and the secondary fluid supply source to a second delivery line.

51. The method of claim 50, further comprising:

- (n) providing a fourth block including a main flow channel disposed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the second delivery line, a first shut-off  
25 valve at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel, a second shut-off valve at least partially formed within the fourth block and in fluid communication with the main flow channel, a flow meter including a sensor and a control valve, and a purge delivery line including a purge inlet flow channel in fluid communication with the main flow channel and a purge inlet port and a purge  
30 outlet flow channel in fluid communication with the main flow channel and a purge outlet port, the purge fluid inlet flow channel including a third shut-off valve and being disposed

between the first shut-off valve and the flow meter, and the purge outlet flow channel including a fourth shut-off valve and being disposed between the flow meter and the second shut-off valve;

5 (o) opening the first and second shut-off valves, while the third and fourth shut-off valves are closed, to facilitate the flow of the process fluid through the main flow channel from the second delivery line;

(p) measuring a physical property of the process fluid flowing through the main flow channel with the sensor and manipulating the control valve to control the flow rate of the process fluid based upon the measured physical property;

10 (q) selectively closing the first and second shut-off valves to prevent the flow of the process fluid through the main flow channel;

(r) facilitating fluid communication between the purge inlet port and a purge fluid supply source and the purge outlet port and a purge fluid collection source; and

15 (s) opening the third and fourth shut-off valves, while the first and second shut-off valves are closed, to facilitate a flow of purge fluid from the purge fluid collection source, through the purge fluid inlet flow channel, the main flow channel and the purge fluid outlet channel to the purge fluid collection site.

52. A semiconductor processing fluid distribution system comprising:  
a semiconductor processing tool;

20 a first block including at least one channel formed within the first block and at least one valve at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel;

a second block including at least one channel formed within the second block and at least one valve at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid  
25 communication with the at least one channel;

wherein the first and second blocks supply a process fluid to the semiconductor processing tool.

53. The system of claim 52, wherein the first and second blocks are formed of at least silicon.



54. The system of claim 52, wherein the channels of the first and second blocks have cross-sectional dimensions no greater than about 200 micrometers.

55. The system of claim 52, further comprising:

a process fluid supply source including process fluid;

5 wherein the at least one channel of the first block is in fluid communication with the process fluid supply source and a pressurization fluid supply source to facilitate a flow of pressurization fluid from the pressurization fluid supply source, through the at least one channel of the first block, and into the process fluid supply source to pressurize process fluid disposed within the process fluid supply source.

10 56. The system of claim 55, wherein the at least one channel of the first block is further in fluid communication with a purge fluid supply source to facilitate selective cleaning of the at least one channel of the first block by flowing a purge fluid from the purge fluid supply source through the at least one channel of the first block.

57. The system of claim 55, further comprising:

15 a secondary process fluid supply source;

wherein the at least one channel of the second block is in fluid communication with the secondary process fluid supply source and supplies process fluid to the semiconductor process tool.

20 58. The system of claim 57, wherein the at least one channel of the second block is further in fluid communication with the at least one channel of the first block, and the at least one valve of the second block is adjustable to selectively control the flow of process fluid from one or both of the process fluid supply source and the secondary process fluid supply source to the semiconductor processing tool.

59. The system of claim 57, further comprising:

25 a third block including at least one channel formed within the third block and at least one valve at least partially formed within the third block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel;

wherein the at least one channel of the third block is in fluid communication with the pressurization fluid supply source and the secondary process fluid supply source to facilitate a flow of pressurization fluid from the pressurization fluid supply source, through the at least one channel of the third block, and into the secondary process fluid supply source to pressurize process fluid disposed within the secondary process fluid supply source.

60. The system of claim 52, further comprising:  
a process fluid supply source;

wherein the at least one channel of the first block receives a process fluid from the process fluid supply source and the first block further includes a flow meter comprising a pressure sensor and a control valve at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel of the first block, and the flow meter selectively controls the flow rate of the process fluid to the semiconductor processing tool.

61. The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one channel of the first block includes an inlet purge channel disposed upstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve and an outlet purge channel disposed downstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve, and the inlet purge channel is in fluid communication with a purge fluid supply source to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from the purge fluid supply source and through the at least one channel between the inlet and outlet purge channels.

62. A semiconductor processing fluid distribution system comprising:  
a semiconductor processing tool; and

a block including at least one channel formed within the block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the at least one channel including:

a pressurization supply flow path to deliver a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source to a process fluid supply source; and

a purge flow path to deliver a purge fluid from a purge fluid supply source into and through portions of the at least one channel;

wherein the block supplies a process fluid originating from the process fluid supply source to the semiconductor processing tool.

63. A semiconductor processing fluid distribution system comprising:  
a semiconductor processing tool; and

at least one block including at least one channel formed within the block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the at least one block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the at least one channel including:

a pressurization supply flow path to deliver a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source to a first process fluid supply source; and

a process fluid delivery flow path to selectively deliver a process fluid from at least one of the first process fluid supply source and a second process fluid supply source to the semiconductor processing tool.

64. A semiconductor processing fluid distribution system comprising:  
a semiconductor processing tool; and

a block including at least one channel formed within the block and a flow meter comprising a pressure sensor and a control valve at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the at least one channel including an inlet purge channel disposed upstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve, and an outlet purge channel disposed downstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve, the inlet purge channel is in fluid communication with a purge fluid supply source to facilitate delivery of a purge fluid from the purge fluid supply source and through the at least one channel between the inlet and outlet purge channels;

wherein the at least one channel receives a process fluid from a process fluid supply source and the flow meter selectively controls the flow rate of the process fluid for delivery to the semiconductor processing tool.

65. A method of providing a process fluid to a semiconductor processing tool, the method comprising: fluid distribution system comprising:

(a) providing a first block including at least one channel formed within the first block and at least one valve at least partially formed within the first block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the first block configured to delivery process fluid to the semiconductor processing tool;

(b) providing a second block including at least one channel formed within the second block and at least one valve at least partially formed within the second block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the second block being configured for delivery of process fluid to the semiconductor processing tool;

5 (c) supplying the semiconductor processing tool with process fluid from at least one of the first and second blocks.

66. A method of providing a process fluid to a semiconductor processing tool, the method comprising: fluid distribution system comprising:

10 (a) providing a block including at least one channel formed within the block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel;

(b) pressurizing a process fluid disposed within a process fluid supply source by delivering a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source to the process fluid supply source via a pressurization flow path of the at least one channel;

15 (c) purging portions of the at least one channel by delivering a purge fluid from a purge fluid supply source into and through the portions of the at least one channel via a purge flow path of the at least one channel; and

(d) supplying a process fluid originating from the process fluid supply source to the semiconductor processing tool via the block.

20 67. A method of providing a process fluid to a semiconductor processing tool, the method comprising: fluid distribution system comprising:

(a) providing at least one block including at least one channel formed within the at least one block and a plurality of valves at least partially formed within the at least one block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel;

25 (b) pressurizing a process fluid disposed within a first process fluid supply source by delivering a pressurization fluid from a pressurization fluid supply source to the first process fluid supply source via a pressurization flow path of the at least one channel;

(c) selectively delivering a process fluid, via a process fluid delivery flow path of the at least one channel, from at least one of the first process fluid supply source and a  
30 second process fluid supply source to the semiconductor processing tool.

68. A method of providing a process fluid to a semiconductor processing tool, the method comprising: fluid distribution system comprising:

(a) providing a block including at least one channel formed within the block and a flow meter comprising a pressure sensor and a control valve at least partially formed within the block and in fluid communication with the at least one channel, the at least one channel including an inlet purge channel disposed upstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve, and an outlet purge channel disposed downstream of the pressure sensor and the control valve;

(b) receiving a process fluid from a process fluid supply source into the at least one channel;

(c) controlling the flow rate of the process fluid flowing within the at least one channel for delivery to the semiconductor processing tool via the flow meter; and

(d) flowing a purge fluid supplied from a purge fluid supply source through the at least one channel between the inlet and outlet purge channels at selected periods during system operation.